

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0809

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT PORG CY TU ECOSOC SHUM

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: A. STATE 012320; B. STATE 031232

1. SUMMARY: HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE RARELY BEEN HONORED IN CYPRUS. SINCE JULY 15 COUP, JULY 20 INVASION, LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF THEIR NORMAL RIGHTS. SITUATION COULD CONTINUE INDEFINITELY. END SUMMARY.

2. EXCEPT FOR BRIEF PERIODS DURING PAST 17 YEARS, RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS HAS NEVER BEEN CYPRIOT STRONG SUIT. INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN DETAINED WITHOUT TRIAL; FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, EXPRESSION, AND ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN ABRIDGED; NUMEROUS PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MURDERED FOR POLITICAL BELIEFS; AND MANY HAVE BEEN DENIED RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT.

3. SINCE JULY 15 GREEK CYPRIOT COUP AND SUBSEQUENT JULY 20 TURKISH INVASION, THERE HAS BEEN MANIFOLD INCREASE IN DEPRIVATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS HERE. THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED BUT CONVINCING REPORTS THAT COUP GOVERNMENT MASSACRED SCORES OF ITS OPPONENTS; THOUSANDS WERE KILLED IN FIGHTING WHICH FOLLOWED TURKISH INVASION, MANY UNDER HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE CIRCUMSTANCES. GOC ESTIMATES THAT BETWEEN 1,000-3,000 GREEK CYPRIOTS ARE STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR.

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ON OTHER SIDE, THREE MASSACRES OF TURK CYPRIOT VILLAGERS BY THEIR

GREEK COMPATRIOTS WERE UNCOVERED AFTER CEASEFIRE.

4. APPROXIMATELY 180,000 GREEK CYPRIOTS FLED FROM THEIR HOMES AS TURKISH ARMY ADVANCED. NONE HAVE BEEN ALLOWED RETURN. THE FEW GREEKS REMAINING BEHIND TURKISH LINES HAVE BEEN SYSTEMATICALLY HARASSED TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO MOVE TO GOC CONTROLLED TERRITORY, THUS MAKING ROOM FOR TURK CYPRIOTS MIGRATING NORTH. PRESSURE GENERALLY PSYCHOLOGICAL, ALTHOUGH ALLEGATIONS OF RAPE AND MALTREATMENT ABOUND.

5. TURK CYPRIOTS REMAINING IN GOC TERRITORY ARE ALSO RESTRICTED, PRIMARILY TO PREVENT THEIR NORTHERN MIGRATION. THEIR SITUATION IS EASED BY PRESENCE OF UNFICYP, WHICH PREVENTS ACTUAL HARASSMENT SO LONG AS VILLAGERS REMAIN IN PLACE.

6. ABANDONED HOUSES, BUSINESSES, AND FACTORIES ON BOTH SIDES OF CEASEFIRE LINE HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY LOOTED, TAKEN OVER BY SOMEONE OTHER THAN OWNER, OR BOTH.

7. ABOVE OUTLINE DEPICTS A DISMAL SITUATION AND ONE THAT IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE INTO FORESEEABLE FUTURE. UNLESS/UNTIL OVERALL POLITICAL SETTLEMENT REACHED, HUMAN RIGHTS ARE UNLIKELY BE HONORED IN CYPRUS.

8. IN LIGHT STATE 031232, DOES DEPARTMENT REQUIRE ADDITIONAL INFO ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION AS IT RELATES TO CYPRUS?
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